

09/585,222

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone discussion of July 23, 20004. If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

As discussed, the purpose of the present invention is to use the smallest barstock possible so that no machining of the outer surface, i.e., perimeter, of the valve is necessary. This invention leads to significant gains in manufacturing efficiency and cost savings as discussed in the Applicant's specification in the Background of the Invention.

Initially choosing a smaller size barstock to fabricate the valve body and then forming the eccentric location of the through bore permits (1) the uniform transverse cross-sectional perimeter of the originally selected barstock to remain unaltered, and (2) sufficient strength and thickness in the valve body to accommodate a standard size valve stem. The above amendment of "...a uniform transverse cross-sectional perimeter circumscribed about a central longitudinal axis, wherein the uniform transverse cross-sectional perimeter of the barstock body remains unaltered from an originally manufactured barstock body" is not disclosed, taught or even suggested in any manner by the cited Matousek '516 reference which shows a very non-uniform cross-sectional perimeter along the length of the highly machined valve.

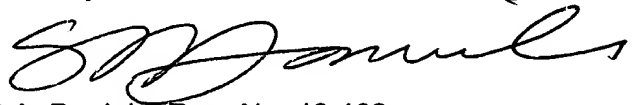
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

09/585,222

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Daniels", written in a cursive style.

Scott A. Daniels, Reg. No. 42,462

Customer No. 020210

Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.

Fourth Floor

500 North Commercial Street

Manchester NH 03101-1151

Telephone 603-624-9220

Facsimile 603-624-9229

E-mail: patent@davisandbujold.com